

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A polypeptide that suppresses neuronal death associated with Alzheimer's disease having an amino acid sequence of Formula (I):

Pro-X_{N1}-(Cys/bXaa)-(Leu/Arg)-X_{N2}-Leu-Thr-(Gly/Ser)-X_{N3}-Pro (I) wherein "Cys/bXaa" indicates Cys or a basic amino acid; "(Leu/Arg)" indicates Leu or Arg; "(Gly/Ser)" indicates Gly or Ser; and X_{N1}, X_{N2}, and X_{N3} independently indicate arbitrary amino acid sequences not more than 10 residues in length, respectively.

2. (previously presented) A polypeptide selected from the group of:

(a) a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence selected from the group of SEQ ID NOs: 5 to 8, 10, 12, 13, 21 to 24, 26 to 29, 32, 33, 37 to 40, 46, 48, 54, and 60; and,

(b) a polypeptide that suppresses neuronal death associated with Alzheimer's disease having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 5 to 8, 10, 12, 13, 21 to 24, 26 to 29, 32, 33, 37 to 40, 46, 48, 54, and 60, wherein one or more amino acids have been substituted, deleted, inserted, and/or added.

3. (canceled)

4. (previously presented) A fusion polypeptide comprising the polypeptide of any of claims 1 to 2 fused with one or more other polypeptides.

5. (previously presented) A DNA encoding the polypeptide of any one of claims 1 to 2, or a fusion polypeptide comprising the polypeptide of any of claims 1 to 2 fused with one or more other polypeptides.

6. (original) A vector into which the DNA of claim 5 is inserted.

7. (original) A host cell retaining the vector of claim 6.

8. (previously presented) A method for producing the polypeptide of any one of claims 1 to 2, comprising the steps of culturing a host cell retaining a vector into which a DNA encoding any one of claims 1 to 2, or a fusion polypeptide comprising the polypeptide of

any of claims 1 to 2 fused with one or more other polypeptides, is inserted, and recovering the expressed polypeptide from the host cell or culture supernatant thereof.

9. (canceled)

10. (canceled)

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising as the effective component the polypeptide of any one of claims 1 to 2 or a vector into which a DNA encoding the polypeptide is inserted.

14. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 13, wherein said composition acts as a neuronal death suppressant.

15. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 13, comprising an amount of the polypeptide or the vector effective to prevent or treat diseases that are accompanied by neurodegeneration.

16. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 13, comprising an amount of the polypeptide or the vector effective to prevent or treat Alzheimer's disease.

17. (canceled)

18. (previously presented) A DNA for detecting or manipulating DNA encoding the polypeptide of any one of claims 1 to 2, wherein the DNA comprises at least 15 nucleotides that are complementary to a DNA consisting of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 or to a complementary strand thereof.

19. (canceled)